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transmit a first signal to the transmitter and to receive a second signal from the transmitter.

- [c9] 9.The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the interface comprises memory to store the programming provided by the programming system.
- [c10] 10.The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the interface further comprises a processor coupled to the device and to memory, wherein the processor executes the programming stored in memory to communicate device data to the transmitter.
- [c11] 11.The system as recited in claim 8, wherein the cell controller is coupled to an information system.
- [c12] 12.The system as recited in claim 6, wherein the interface and the transmitter are housed within a single housing.
- [c13] 13.A programmable interface for a wireless communication system, comprising:
a first electrical connector operable to couple the programmable interface to a programming device, wherein the programmable interface is operable to receive programming from the programming device to enable the programmable interface to communicate with a plurality of electrical devices using different communication formats.
- [c14] 14.The programmable interface as recited in claim 13, wherein the data comprises an operating parameter of an asset.
- [c15] 15.The programmable interface as recited in claim 13, further comprising a second electrical connector to couple the programmable interface to an electrical device.
- [c16] 16.The programmable interface as recited in claim 13, further comprising a third electrical connector to couple the programmable interface to the transmitter.

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- [c17] 17.The programmable interface as recited in claim 13, wherein the transmitter is a transponder.
- [c18] 18.A wireless communication system, comprising:
a cell controller;
a plurality of antennas electrically coupled to the cell controller, each antenna being operable to transmit a first signal and to receive a second signal;
a transmitter operable to receive the first signal and to transmit the second signal; and
an interface electrically coupled between an asset and a transmitter to communicate asset data to the transmitter for transmission as a portion of the second signal, wherein the interface is programmable by a wireless communication system user to enable the interface to communicate with an asset and a transmitter using different communication protocols.
- [c19] 19.The system as recited in claim 18, further comprising a programming unit operable to program the interface to communicate using a selected communication protocol.
- [c20] 20.The system as recited in claim 19, wherein the communication protocol is selected by selecting a desired asset to communicate with the interface.
- [c21] 21.The system as recited in claim 18, wherein the asset data is an operating parameter of the asset.
- [c22] 22.The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the operating parameter is the operating status of the asset.
- [c23] 23.The system as recited in claim 18, wherein the transmitter and interface are integrated into a single unit.
- [c24] 24.A method of using a common interface to couple a plurality of assets using different communication formats to a wireless communication system, comprising the acts of:

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operating a programming station to program a first common interface with information to enable the first common interface to communicate with a first asset;

operating the programming station to program a second common interface with information to enable the second interface to communicate with a second asset; and

coupling the first common interface between the first asset and a first transmitter to communicate information from the first asset to the first transmitter and coupling the second common interface between the second asset and a second transmitter to communicate information from the second asset to the second transmitter.

[c25] 25. The method as recited in claim 24, further comprising the act of operating the wireless communication system to obtain information from the first and second assets.

[c26] 26. The method as recited in claim 24, further comprising the act of securing the first common interface to the first asset.

[c27] 27. The method as recited in claim 24, wherein the transmitter is a transponder, further comprising the act of connecting an RF tag to the first common interface.

[c28] 28. The method as recited in claim 24, further comprising the act of reprogramming the first common interface with programming from the programming device to enable the first common interface to communicate with a different asset.

[c29] 29. A method of enabling a user to program a common interface to communicate medical asset data from a plurality of different medical assets using a wireless communication system, comprising the acts of:
programming a first common interface with information from a programming station to enable the first common interface to communicate with a first medical asset; and

coupling the first common interface between the first medical asset and a first transmitter to communicate medical asset data from the first medical asset to a first transmitter.

[c30]

30. The method as recited in claim 29, further comprising the acts of:
programming a second common interface with information from a programming station to enable the second interface to communicate with a second medical asset, and
coupling the second common interface between the second medical asset and a second transmitter to communicate information from the second asset to the second transmitter

31. The method as recited in claim 29, further comprising the act of operating the wireless communication system to obtain medical asset data.

[c31]

32. The method as recited in claim 29, further comprising the act of securing the first common interface to the first asset.

[c32]

33. The method as recited in claim 29, wherein the transmitter is a transponder, further comprising the act of connecting an RF tag to the first common interface.

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